

Slavery In Disguise

HELLO!

I am Eugenie Cidoine

I am here to share my Grandpa's
story of how he saw his family
work in the cotton field.

What was one of the agricultural export?

Up until the 1980s, cotton was one of Haiti's top four agricultural exports. About 66 percent of the country's workforce was employed by the cotton industry, which also generated 90 percent of its exports and 35% of its GDP. After gaining independence from France, Alexandre Pétion subsidized plantation for the use of emancipated slave.

Who has tried to bring the cotton company back after it collapsed?

Timberland has launched an effort to resurrect the cotton sector in Haiti after 30 years of no cotton production. Timberland has committed to sourcing up to one-third of its annual worldwide cotton purchases from Haiti. This program is still going strong today and is supported by shoe and apparel brand. Within five years, 25 million trees will be planted, and 34,000 farmers will be in business. And it is said that husband and wife will be working 17,000 farms.



“Timberland is excited to evolve our role from being a sponsor to becoming a customer of the SFA. Across Timberland, we are striving to be Earth keepers, working hard to create responsible products, protect the outdoors, and serve communities. This initiative gives us the opportunity to hit on all three of these aspects.”

– ATLANTA MCILWRAITH

Senior Manager, Community Engagement,
Timberland

My Grandpa



My grandfather's name is Charles Dorrelus, and he was born in 1935. He is 98 years old and still resides in Haiti, where he was born and raised. He had 11 kids, and three of them died. Despite all the difficulties, he managed his own garden and provided for his kids. He ran a business while Duvalier was president and was worried it would be stolen due of Duvalier's ruthlessness, but he was able to protect it. He is now retired.

How was it growing up during that time?

My grandpa moved with his younger brother at a young age after losing both of his parents and experienced severe abuse. He claimed that his older brother worked in a cotton field and that customers would pay him to deliver cotton to them along with his coworkers. The buyers would arrest the workers if they did not obtain the cotton since they did not provide what was expected of them. He said that going through that was not at all desirable. When he would try to catch animals to eat, his brother would take the animal and sell it. He mentioned that his brother wife did not leave food for him when he was younger. He made it his mission to fetch for himself.



What did you learn about the historical event from your research?

I mistakenly believed that Haiti was truly free following the 1804 revolution, but this is not the case. They were making offers to people while still having them labor in the cotton field under a new title, which was not acceptable. I had no idea my grandfather was alive throughout that time period, so it was surprising to learn that I still have someone alive from that period.

What did I learn from the interviewer
that I did not learn from my research?

I discovered that the French were still attempting to deceive people into believing that they were not free, despite this. Even though they were limited in what they could do, they were still helped by Haiti. The reality is, they Haitian people were suffering if they opted to stop working. The abuse just changed its title, but it never left.



Work Cited

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